

Better Homes & Gardens®

# Halloween

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GARLANDS,  
PUMPKINS  
& MORE

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AT FIRST  
SIGHT

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**MONSTER MASH**

Stitch a wall hanging that is a treat to complete. Merry -- not scary -- faces will greet treat-or-treaters this Halloween.  
Designer: Jen Daly. Finished quilt: 19-1/2" square.



**STASH & CARRY**



**FRONT RUNNER: FALL**



**ENAMEL PIN BANNER**



**SOFT & SPOOKY**



**FEELIN' FOXY**



**HEX MARKS THE SPOT**



# Editor's Note



## Enter, if you dare!

As my kids have gotten older, I've been pushed more and more to decorate outside for Halloween. According to my daughter, you can't have too many spooky touches. For the past three years I've rigged up a handmade, light-up, 8-foot candy chute to blast candy down and straight into trick-or-treaters' bags. What started out as a social-distancing tool has turned into a neighborhood legend.

And let's be honest, the pinnacle of Halloween is the night the little ones dress in their spooky best and go door-to-door to collect all the treats. If you're looking for a way to rock your block on Halloween, these pages are filled with easy and clever outdoor decorating ideas that range from haunting to hilarious. From witches who need some flying lessons (*page 54*) and quickly-painted pumpkin projects (*page 36*) to going all out with an infestation of creepy critters (*page 46*), there's something for even the wickedest of imaginations.

Whether you want to go big or keep it simple this year, sit back and enjoy all the eerie inspiration!

*Nicole Dean Teut*

Nicole Dean Teut



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*Scary Good Time*

There's nothing more thrilling than seeing the smiles of fright and delight on the faces of passersby on Halloween night. These pages are packed with frighteningly good ideas. Happy haunting!



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# UNVEIL THE WONDERS OF FALL

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Crisp, cool weather, brightly colored foliage, and smaller crowds make fall the perfect time to travel. Whether you want to stick closer to home or explore somewhere new, make your next getaway count at one of these not-so-hot spots across the Midwest.





### AURORA AREA, IL

Find fall colors at farms, orchards and along the Fox River Trail, then sample fall flavors at delicious dining destinations. Pair your visit with award-winning productions at Paramount Theatre and affordable, brand-name lodging options at Aurora Area hotels.

[enjoyaurora.com](http://enjoyaurora.com) | 630.256.3190

### CUSTER STATE PARK, SD

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[custerstatepark.com](http://custerstatepark.com) | 605.255.4515

### CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO

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[visitcape.com](http://visitcape.com) | 800.777.0068

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[carbondaletourism.org](http://carbondaletourism.org) | 618.529.4451

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[visitchampaigncounty.org](http://visitchampaigncounty.org) | 217.351.4133

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[funlake.com](http://funlake.com) | 573.348.1599

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[visitwashmo.com](http://visitwashmo.com) | 636.239.2715



# Double Take

Assign your front porch decor a second shift. Decorate for Halloween, then dress it down for the rest of fall.

WRITER MADISON PINCOMBE PHOTOGRAPHER ADAM ALBRIGHT PRODUCER JENI WRIGHT

## LOOK ONE

### Spookified Facade

1

#### GAUZY GHOSTS

Shroud grapevine balls in a few uneven layers of cheesecloth to make ghosts that'll hang around your front porch. Cut circles from sheets of black self-adhesive foam for eyes. Hang the ghosts with twine or wire.

2

#### STATEMENT WREATH

A blank tin plaque personalized with a sticker-letter message dresses up a fall wreath.

3

#### JUMBO JACK-O'-LANTERNS

Create supersize pumpkins by combining two wire baskets filled with gourds. We cut the faces from self-adhesive black foam.

#### TOP IT

Use driftwood or a piece of a thick branch for the stem.



## WIRE PUMPKIN

### MATERIALS

- 2 wire hanging baskets
- 22-gauge wire
- Small gourds
- 6-inch driftwood piece

### INSTRUCTIONS

Fill both baskets with gourds; top one with a thin board.

Hold board in place while flipping basket to sit on top of its mate. Slide the board out; bind baskets with wire.

Drill a hole through the driftwood near one end. Wire to the top basket.





### CHANGE IT UP

Personalize your wreath, *this photo*, with colorful dried foliage such as globe thistle, blackbeard wheat, eucalyptus, and red broom corn, *right*.

## WHEAT WREATH

### MATERIALS

- Dried wheat
- Hot-glue gun
- 14-inch foam wreath form
- Faux bittersweet
- Red or purple broom corn

### INSTRUCTIONS

Trim dried wheat so stems are 1 inch long.

Hot-glue wheat stems to the wreath form, overlapping tassels as you go. Create a spiral effect by keeping tassels pointed in the same direction.

Tuck in sprigs of bittersweet and broom corn; glue into place.



## LOOK TWO

### Full-on Fall

1

#### AMPED-UP GARLAND

A thick rope (we used 1½-inch Manila rope) wrapped with outdoor string lights is a bold garland base, no greenery required. Attach a mix of grapevine balls with florists wire. (These are 6- and 10-inch-diameter balls.)

2

#### SMART LIGHTS

Set and forget stock lanterns with battery-powered candles on timers. (6-inch Flameless Outdoor Waterproof Candles, \$29 for nine; [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com))

3

#### FALL FOLIAGE

Fill containers with a mix of textures: spiky grasses, mounds of mums, fluffy 'Magic Carpet' spirea, and ruffled kale and cabbage. Plants grow slowly in cool temps, so pack containers full and water only occasionally.



## Warts and All

Mingle regular orange pumpkins with unusual varieties, gourds, and squashes.



BOTTLE GOURD



'JARRAHDALE' PUMPKIN



'TURK'S TURBAN' SQUASH



'LONG ISLAND CHEESE' PUMPKIN



WARTY GOBLIN PUMPKIN





# WILD THINGS

Gnarled trees and creepy-crawlies are the  
freaky favorites of these enchanted  
etched pumpkin forest scenes.

**WRITER** MALLORY ABREU **PRODUCER** JESSICA THOMAS  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** ADAM ALBRIGHT **CRAFTER** KIM HUTCHISON





### SPINDLY SILHOUETTES

Etching deep into the pumpkin around the branches sets a wintry tree aglow as if backlit by the moon, *this photo*. (Etching allows for more precise detail than fully carving through a pumpkin.) Although the tree's branches are shown in relief, the raven and its perch are etched away to create an eerily bright silhouette of one of Halloween's favorite symbols.

### SLITHERY SKULL

Pick a pumpkin like a 'Blue Hokkaido' or a Hungarian squash for a smooth, bone-gray base, *opposite*. Etch the teeth and a circular border around the skull, then carve away the cavities and wind a toy snake through for more fear factor.

### LEAVE THE STEM

Cut out the bottom of the pumpkin to clean it out and light it. It gives your pumpkin a professional look and slows decay.





## ETCHING TIPS

Wood carving gouges and a crafts knife are the best tools for etching. Use a gouge to etch large sections and a crafts knife to outline and cut out fine details.

## SNAKE CHARMER

A 'Blue Hokkaido' pumpkin looks like a stone under this illuminated serpent, *above*. Etch the snake's body but leave small areas uncarved as scales. Tip: If you want to display a pumpkin on its side like this, cut the hole to clean the inside into the part of the pumpkin that will sit on the ground.

## GLOWING EYES

Simple but dramatic is the mantra with these big-eyed jack-o'-lanterns, *right*. Pick your favorite eyes from our five templates or freehand carve your own. Set pumpkins in a shady area so they look like creatures peering out at trick-or-treaters. Use faux flickering candles to avoid a fire hazard.





## WOODLAND CREATURES

Texture is the key to bringing these nocturnal animals to life, *this photo*. After creating a relief of mice silhouettes, we used a wood carving gouge to surround them with short, rough grooves that look like claw marks. For the owl, fully cutaway areas emphasize its body, eyes, and beak. A smooth oval and wood-grain grooves evoke its tree-hollow home.





## HAUNTED HOUSE

Set in a bed of moss and lichen, this mystical white pumpkin cottage, *this photo*, and its mushroom “forest” attract all the little scuttlers. A combination of fully carved-out sections and areas etched with a wood carving gouge create the windows, door, and mushrooms.

## BAT ATTACK

Felt wings and ears secured with toothpicks transform petite pumpkins into wicked-cute bats, *opposite*. Etch out the eyes, then stick red sewing pins through the center of each to create beady stares. A coat of black paint on the bodies makes the eyes appear to glow even during the day.







**DOWNLOAD** PATTERNS & INSTRUCTIONS  
FOR THE PROJECTS IN THIS STORY AT [BH.G.COM/PUMPKINTEMPLATE](https://www.bhg.com/pumpkin-template)



# Wicked Welcome



## EASE ON IN

There's no haunting going on at this happy Halloween home, *this photo*. Painted pumpkins and easy-to-make decorations in charming black and orange greet visitors.





Looking for a spirited way to dress up your home's front entrance? Use classic colors and iconic motifs to concoct festive friendliness with Halloween spunk—without scaring off the neighborhood trick-or-treaters.

**PRODUCER** LINDSAY BERGER

**WRITER** KRISTIN SCHMITT

**PHOTOGRAPHER** CAMERON SADEGHPOUR

### **WRAPPED IN MYSTERY**

Add the perfect finishing touch to your happy Halloween decor by wrapping porch columns or yard-light poles with a black leaf garland, *this photo*. Simply secure it for the season with duct tape.





**Bring a fun and festive spirit to everyday spaces with hanging paper lanterns and bright orange accents.**





## SIT A SPELL

Easy embellishments make this porch, *opposite*, ghoulishly cozy. Put painted pumpkins on display, tie up curtains with orange flagging tape, and let paper lanterns and homemade bats hover over spidery pillows for a frightfully fun look.

## TOWERING TOPIARIES

Frame your door with fanciful pumpkin topiaries, *this photo*. Start with a pair of urn planters and a tower of painted pumpkins secured on a stake, then embellish with fall flowers.







## PUMPKIN PORTRAITS

Inexpensive frames from a crafts store, *opposite*, and an artificial pumpkin sliced in half become works of art with creative painting.

## SPOOKY SPIDERWEB

Weave a web down the front walk to captivate visitors, *below right*. Strips of black electrical tape transform a sidewalk or stepping-stones into a web of shapely steps.



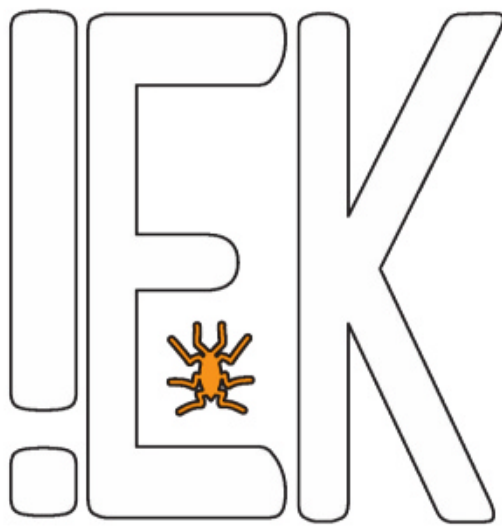
## SEASONAL STRIPES

Guests won't be scared to come knocking with this playful wreath, *above*, on the door. Simply wrap a foam wreath form with yarn and add purchased decorations—like this glitzy spider and web.



# INSTRUCTIONS

**Banner Pattern  
Enlarge 400%**



**Letter and Spider  
Patterns  
Enlarge 400%**

## EASE ON IN: “EEK” BANNER

### MATERIALS

- Banner pattern, *above left*
- Letter and spider patterns, *above right*
- Nonadhesive vinyl shelf liner: black and white
- Orange plastic flagging tape
- Superglue
- Black duct tape
- Thin rope

### INSTRUCTIONS

Enlarge the banner and letter patterns and cut out. On black shelf liner, trace the banner pattern six times; cut out each banner. On white shelf liner, trace the E letter pattern twice, the K letter pattern once, and the exclamation mark pattern once; cut out each letter and punctuation. Trace the spider pattern onto orange flagging tape and cut out to decorate the period in the exclamation mark.

Fold over the top edge of each banner piece approximately 1 inch and secure with black duct tape to form a hanging pocket on the back.

Position the letters and punctuation on the front of four banner pieces toward the bottom to allow space for the decorative orange fringe; adhere the letters using superglue. Cut four pieces of orange flagging tape to run across the top edge of the banner pieces. Cut slits in the tape to create fringe; adhere using superglue.

To decorate the remaining two banner pieces, cut stripes of white shelf liner and orange flagging tape to run diagonally across the banner. Cut the strips longer than needed, and adhere them to the banner using superglue; trim the ends along the edge of the banner.

String a piece of thin rope through the hanging pockets on the back of each banner piece to hang the finished decoration.

## PUMPKIN PORTRAITS

### MATERIALS

- Artificial pumpkin
- Spray paint: white, black, orange
- Painter’s tape
- 2 frames
- Damage-free picture hooks (we used 3M hooks)

### INSTRUCTIONS

Cut an artificial pumpkin in equal halves. Spray-paint each half white; let dry. Use tape along the natural indents of the pumpkin to mask off stripes. Spray-paint black; let dry thoroughly, then remove tape. Spray-paint the picture frames orange; let dry.

Use picture hooks to hang the pumpkins and frames.

## SPOOKY SPIDERWEB

### MATERIALS

- Black electrical tape

### INSTRUCTIONS

Clean off your pavers (or sidewalk) and make sure they are completely dry. Start at the corner of the paver or sidewalk and make a small semicircle with the electrical tape. Make a series of concentric semicircles around the first one, leaving a few inches between each circle until you have the spiderweb size you want. Add a few straight lines, stretching from the smallest circle to the largest one, to finish the web. Add a spider in the center.

## SIT A SPELL: PAPER LANTERNS

### MATERIALS

- Paper lanterns
- White string
- Hook-and-loop tape

### INSTRUCTIONS

Note: It is helpful to have two people doing this project so one person can stand back and look at the position of each lantern as you hang it.

Open each lantern and attach an extra-long string to each one. Hold up the lantern to see where you want it to hang and at what length. Attach the length of string you want to one of the pieces of the hook-and-loop tape. Hang the other hook-and-loop strip on the ceiling where you want the lantern to hang. Attach the two pieces of hook-and-loop tape to each other; cut off any extra string.



## SEASONAL STRIPES

### MATERIALS

- 14-inch-diameter plastic-foam wreath form
- Yarn: black and white
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Purchased Halloween decorations

### INSTRUCTIONS

Use a pencil and ruler to mark even sections on the plastic-foam wreath form. Wrap each section with yarn, alternating between black and white. Start a section by hot-gluing the end of the yarn on the back of the wreath, then wrapping the yarn around the wreath in a single layer, gently pushing the yarn together so the wreath form doesn't show through. At the end of each section, cut the yarn and secure the end to the back of the wreath using hot glue.

Embellish the center of the wreath with a purchased Halloween decoration of your choice.

## SIT A SPELL: HOVERING BATS

### MATERIALS

- Bat pattern, *below*
- Nonadhesive vinyl shelf liner: black
- Florists wire
- Black duct tape
- Superglue
- Fishing line

### INSTRUCTIONS

Enlarge the bat pattern and cut out. Trace two bat shapes (for each finished bat) on black shelf liner; cut out. Lay a piece of florists wire across the wingspan of one bat cutout,

stopping just short of each wing tip; secure with black duct tape. Position the other bat cutout on top, and glue the two pieces together along the edges.

Punch two holes along the lower edge of the wings. Hang with clear fishing line.

## TOWERING TOPIARIES

### MATERIALS

- 3 pumpkins of descending sizes
- Spray paint: black and white
- Painter's tape
- Drill and drill bit
- Metal rebar
- 2 plastic planter urns
- Plastic-foam block
- Planting soil
- Fall bedding flowers

### INSTRUCTIONS

Spray-paint the medium pumpkin white; let dry. Use tape along the natural indents of the medium pumpkin to mask off stripes; spray-paint black. Let the pumpkins dry thoroughly and remove tape.

Using a drill bit one size smaller than the metal stake, drill holes through the center tops and center bottoms of the large and medium pumpkins and a hole through the center bottom of the small pumpkin.

Position the plastic-foam block in the bottom of one of the plastic urns so the large pumpkin sits at the desired height. Drill a hole in the center of the block.

Stack the planter with the plastic-foam block inside the empty planter. Twist the metal stake into the plastic-foam block. Then stack the pumpkins, largest to smallest, on the metal stake by twisting them into place for tight, stable fits. Fill the planters with soil and fall flowers.

Bat Pattern  
Enlarge 200%



# WHAT IS AVAXHOME?



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# SPOOKY SCARY SKELETONS

No bones about it—these Halloween skeletons are guaranteed to set a spine-tingling scene.

**PHOTOGRAPHER** JASON DONNELLY  
**PRODUCER** SHAWN ROORDA



A photograph of two white plastic skeletons positioned behind a large, dense green bush. The skeletons are posed as if they are peeking out from the foliage. The scene is set outdoors on a cobblestone path covered with fallen autumn leaves. In the background, a white picket fence and a house with a striped awning are visible. A large speech bubble is superimposed over the top right of the image, containing text.


## WHAT'S A SKELETON'S FAVORITE PLANT?

A BONE-ZAI

### DEAD MAN WALKING

Trigger fright-and-flight instincts by setting skulking skeletons in the shrubbery, *this photo*. Use tall stakes and monofilament line to pose and secure the furtive figures.



A photograph of three human skeletons in a yard, dressed as croquet players. The skeleton on the left is standing, wearing a grey flat cap and a white scarf, holding a croquet mallet. The skeleton in the middle is standing, wearing a blue hat, also holding a mallet. The skeleton on the right is sitting in a green lawn chair, holding a mallet and a glass of juice. The yard is covered with fallen leaves, and a house with a porch is in the background.

**WHAT WAS  
THE SKELETON  
DOING AT THE  
HOCKEY GAME?**

Driving the Zam-boney!

**IN FINE FORM** Create the petrified poses of croquet-playing skeletons, *this photo*, by using fishing line to tie them to long stakes pushed into the ground. Tie the croquet mallets to the skeletons with more fishing line, and prop up an onlooker in a lawn chair.



## PICNIC IN PERPETUITY

Dolled up in hats, a scarf, and a tie, our perpetual picnickers, *this photo*, are propped up with rebar stakes pushed into the ground. Weight the Thermos and basket with pebbles, and use ground stakes to hold the blanket in place.

**WHY ARE SKELETONS SO CALM?**

Because nothing gets under their skin.



## PAST HER PRIME

Some hostesses love handing out treats so much they just can't give it up! This skeleton on a stand, *right*, makes a spirited first impression at the front door. Dressed in a skirt, apron, and pearls, she's ready to greet all your guests.

**CLIMB TIME** These plastic skeletons, *opposite*, don't have to worry about broken bones as they caper from porch to rooftop. Just pose your skeletons and secure with nearly invisible fishing line to give your neighbors a Halloween surprise.

**BONE  
APPÉTIT**





A photograph of a house with light green siding and a dark blue roof. Three skeletons are used as decorations: one is lying on the roof, another is hanging from the porch railing on the right, and a third is standing on the porch railing on the left. A large white speech bubble with a black outline is positioned in the upper left, and a smaller one is in the middle right. The porch has a white railing and a red door. Potted plants with orange and yellow flowers are visible along the porch edge.

**WHAT DOES  
A SKELETON  
WHO'S BEEN UP  
ALL NIGHT SAY?**

I'm bone  
tired.





**Humorous or  
horrifying, skeleton  
scenes in the yard  
keep your neighbors  
entertained.**

**WHAT DO YOU  
CALL A SILLY  
SKELETON?**

A numbskull.

**GRAVE RISER** Clawing its way toward freedom, a skeleton, *this photo*, is not yet fully departed. Tuck skeleton parts under a large flat stone propped up on bricks. Fill in any gaps with leaves and sticks to blend the terrifying tableau into the landscape.



A photograph of four human skeletons standing in a row behind a low stone wall. Each skeleton is dressed in a black top hat and has a red carnation pinned to its chest. The skeleton on the far right is holding a black bow tie. The skeletons are positioned in front of a dense green hedge. In the foreground, there are some red-leafed plants. The background shows a house with a white roof and a window.

**HOW DO  
SKELETONS  
SAY HELLO?**

Bone-jour

**REST YOUR BONES** These fine chaps are all dressed up with nowhere to go, *this photo*. Prop up a crew of skeletons with rebar pushed through the rib cages and into the ground. Add a bit of finery with top hats, silky bow ties, and red carnations.



# Full of Spirits





A big ghost hovers over this Georgia farmhouse, and the fun continues throughout the property, where Halloween is an excuse for spunky—not scary—decorations thanks to a busy mom of ten who sets the tone.

**WRITER** JODY GARLOCK **PHOTOGRAPHER** ADAM ALBRIGHT



## GHOST STORY

A ghost hung from the upper window of Jenny and Chris Zacharewicz's modern farmhouse, *this photo*, presides over the seasonal festivities. "The ghost kind of says, 'Hey, it's Halloween,' as you're driving down the road," Jenny says.



## FESTIVE PERCH

On the porch, *this photo*, pumpkins, mums, and faux-leaf garlands keep the look classic. Jenny turned an old shutter and a plant holder into a pumpkin display. The porch swing, decked out with bat silhouettes and Halloween throw pillows, is a favorite place for the family to gather.







## IT'S FALL Y'ALL

Decorating the porch, *left*, with dried corn stalks, mums, and a variety of pumpkins means the look will last even after Halloween has come and gone. Tucking a few spooky signs, a skeleton, and some jack-o'-lanterns throughout makes it festive, not freaky.

## SCARY SIMPLE

Outdoor Halloween decor, *below*, doesn't need to be elaborate to do the job. Hay bales surrounded by fall flowers and pumpkins anchor a display that includes a happy jack-o'-lantern and a black cat silhouette.

**“As soon as I start decorating for the holidays, the creativity starts flowing. It's just fun—and the kids love to help.”**

—Homeowner Jenny Zacharewicz





## OFFICE HOURS

Jenny carves out work time (she's a social media influencer) in her cute she shed, *this photo*, near the side of the house. The structure came unfinished, so the couple painted it, and Jenny added the decorative touches. A black cat of the plastic variety prowls in the classic autumn landscaping. "It's a really great decoration," she says of the menacing feline.





**SPOOKY INSIDE**

Pumpkins, black cats, and a little hocus-pocus enliven the interior of Jenny's she shed, *this photo*.





# CLEAN CUT

Put down the knife and skip the gory details of carving pumpkins in favor of silly and spooky designs you can create with paint, glue, and a few frightfully simple accessories.





**HAIR BALL** Covered in tinsel, these monster pumpkins are ready to party, *opposite*. Cut a hole in the center of a tinsel wig (\$4; [partycity.com](http://partycity.com)) for the stem to fit through. With wig in place, give your monster a haircut. Make ping-pong balls into eyes by adding cut-in-half cupcake liners for eyelids and round stickers for pupils. Stick on with double-sided adhesive dots. For teeth, cut out and stick on white crafts foam.



**FEARLESS FRIENDS** This playful trio, *this photo*, has eyes out for company. The big-eyed cat, moon, and bat stand by to welcome trick-or-treaters. For a black pumpkin, grab a can of spray paint. To help paint adhere, make sure the pumpkin is clean and dry before painting. Outline the cat and moon template using a thin black marker and fill in the shapes using a chisel-tip marker or paint.







**GOOGLY-EYED GOURDS** These no-carve faces, *this photo*, deliver big personality in a couple of simple steps. Wipe pumpkins clean and let dry, then paint mouths, noses, and circles for eyes with acrylic crafts paint. Attach googly eyes with hot glue. Remove stems, then turn mini pumpkins into eyes. Attach eyes to larger pumpkins with skewers.

**MODERN ART** Trade the crafts store for the home improvement aisle to gather the unexpected bling that fashions this sparkly bat decoration, *opposite*. Golden screws are the art supply of choice; different sizes screwed in at different depths add dimension.

**Extend the life of any painted pumpkin design when you finish with a clear coat of spray polyurethane.**









**Glitz & Glam** The harvest moon is certain to cast an eerie shimmer on these graphic pumpkins, *this photo*. They're easy to make too. Cover the pumpkin with black spray paint; let dry. Use stencils and golden paint or tattoo-like stickers for this look.

**Picasso-Approved**

Misshapen noses and oddball eyes may not win any beauty contests, but these Cubist characters, *opposite*, are sure to get the prize for creativity. Spray-paint clean, dry pumpkins and add details with acrylic paint.







**TEAM PLAYERS** No carving needed for these MVPs, *this photo*. In fact, you won't even work up a sweat. Just use spray paint, tape, and fabric paint to convert plain pumpkins into sporty spheres. Score!



PHOTOGRAPHER: THIS PHOTO, CAMERON SADEGHPOUR; OPPOSITE, ADAM ALBRIGHT



### 1. BUTTERFLY EFFECT

Start with a couple coats of metallic spray paint. Once paint is dry, apply a large vinyl sticker of a butterfly or the insect of your choice.

### 2. HEAVY METAL

Bring on the glitz. Draw on designs using a pencil, and go over the designs using a mini hot-glue gun and glue; let cool. Finish with multiple coats of metallic spray paint.

### 3. ARGYLE ART

Referring to the photo, use a pencil to mark the locations for tacks on the pumpkin ribs. Press tacks into place. Knot string around a tack on the bottom row, then continue looping string around tacks to create a diamond pattern.

### 4. LACE COLLAR

Use a marker to mark two dots on the pumpkin ribs and one dot centered on each section. Connect the dots as shown below. Finish with thinner lines on each side of a straight line.

**Let your pumpkins set the tone for your outdoor display. Silly, sweet, spooky, or sophisticated, there is no wrong way to decorate pumpkins for Halloween.**





# INSTRUCTIONS

## FEARLESS FRIENDS

### MATERIALS

- Cat, Moon, and Bat Wings patterns, *below*
- Pumpkins in various shapes
- Washable marker: brown
- Permanent markers: fine-tip and chisel-tip black
- Adhesive-back white felt (eyes)
- Stiff black felt (pupils and bat wings)
- Hole punch
- Tacky crafts glue
- Black wire and wire cutters (cat whiskers and bat wings)
- Needle-nose pliers
- Black spray paint
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Acrylic paint: orange and white

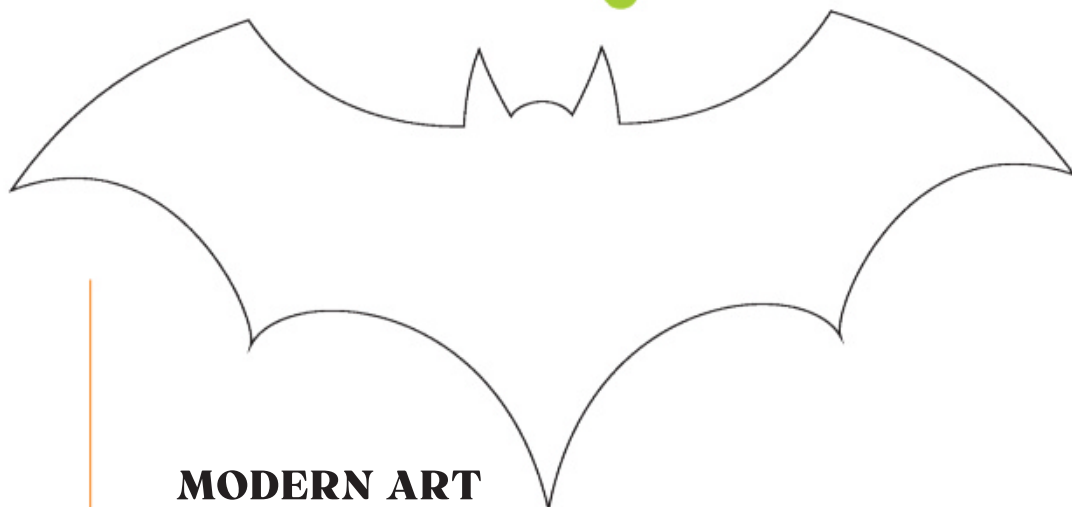
### INSTRUCTIONS

Thoroughly wash and dry pumpkins. Enlarge patterns, *below*, as needed, and cut out. Print and cut out eyes separately.

For the cat and moon, use patterns and a washable marker to draw cat and moon on pumpkins. When satisfied with position, trace lines with a fine-tip permanent marker. Fill in shapes with a chisel-tip marker.

From adhesive-back white felt, cut out eyes. Adhere eyes to cat and moon. Punch pupils from black felt; glue to white felt eyes. For cat whiskers, cut six 2½-inch lengths of black wire. Use needle-nose pliers to bend ¼ inch of each wire at a right angle; push into cat face.

For the bat, tape off pumpkin stem. Spray-paint clean pumpkin black; let dry. Cut two bat wings from stiff black felt. Hot-glue black wire to back of each wing as indicated on pattern; cut wire, leaving wire extending from felt. Paint a curved orange mouth line and white fangs. From adhesive-back white felt, cut out eyes. Adhere eyes to bat, referring to photo. Punch pupils from black felt; glue to white felt eyes. Push wing wires into pumpkin.



## MODERN ART

### MATERIALS

- Bat pattern, *above*
- Pumpkin
- Golden Phillips screws, sizes #6, #8, and #10
- Phillips screwdriver

### INSTRUCTIONS

Trace the Bat pattern, enlarge as needed, and cut out. Place the pattern on the pumpkin and trace with a pencil. Randomly screw different-size golden screws into the pumpkin, outlining and filling in the bat shape and positioning the screws at various heights.

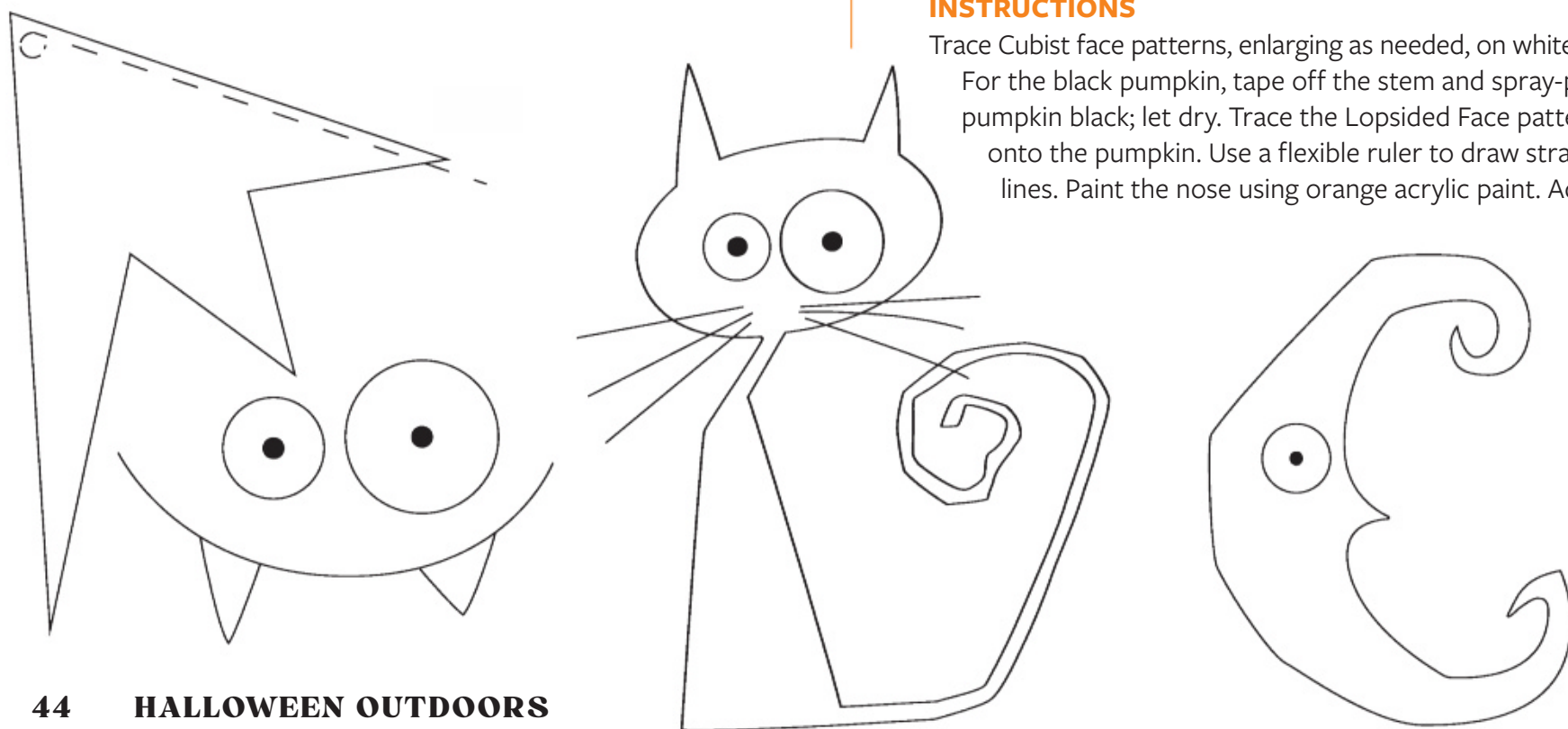
## PICASSO-APPROVED

### MATERIALS

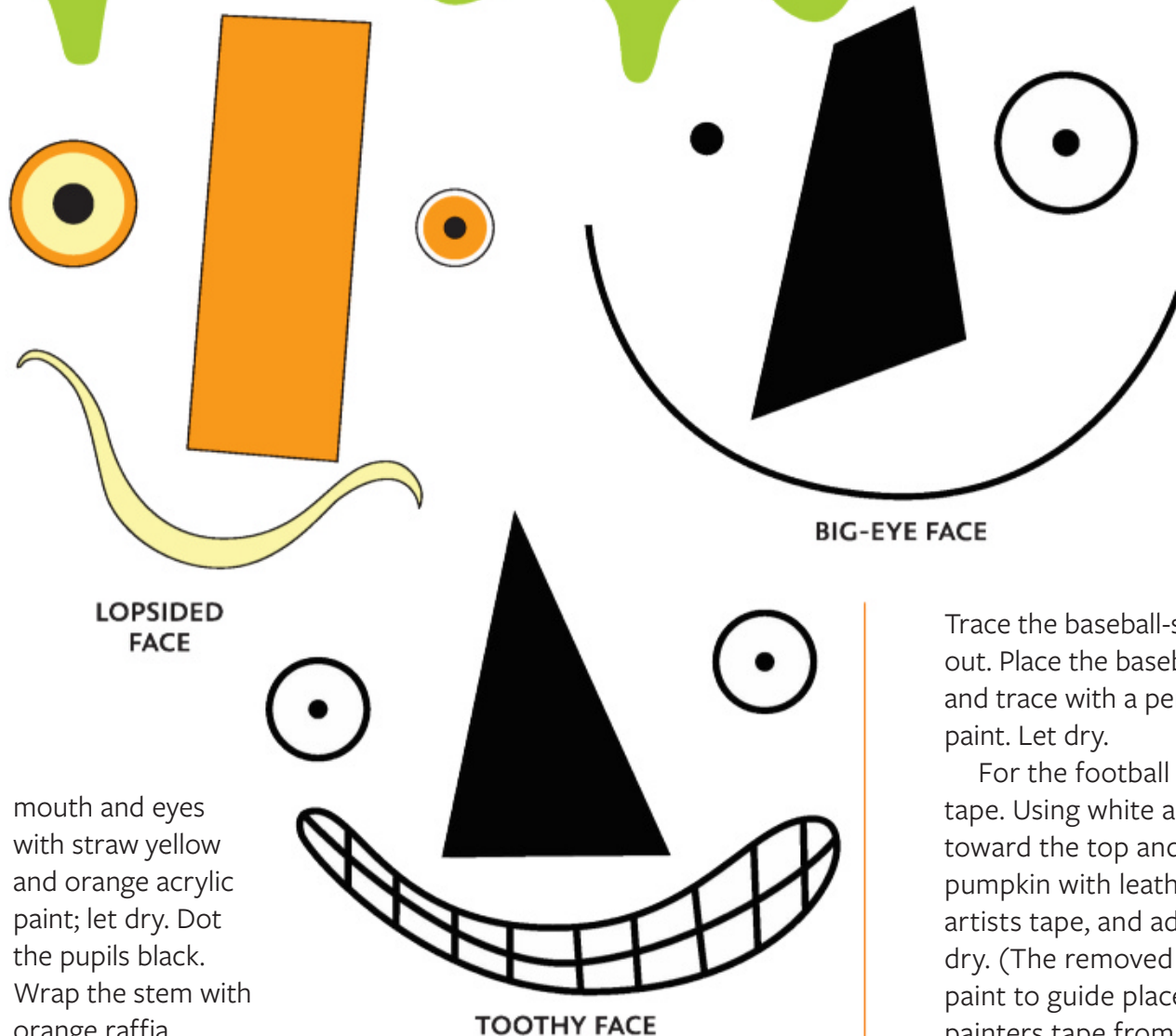
- Cubist face patterns, *opposite*
- Pumpkins
- Painters tape
- Spray paint: black, orange, straw yellow
- Black permanent marker
- Flexible ruler (optional)
- Acrylic paint: orange, straw yellow, black, white
- Raffia: orange and natural

### INSTRUCTIONS

Trace Cubist face patterns, enlarging as needed, on white paper. For the black pumpkin, tape off the stem and spray-paint pumpkin black; let dry. Trace the Lopsided Face pattern onto the pumpkin. Use a flexible ruler to draw straight lines. Paint the nose using orange acrylic paint. Add the







**LOPSIDED  
FACE**

**BIG-EYE FACE**

**TOOTHY FACE**

mouth and eyes with straw yellow and orange acrylic paint; let dry. Dot the pupils black. Wrap the stem with orange raffia.

For the orange pumpkin, use the natural color or tape off the stem and spray-paint the pumpkin orange; let dry. Trace the Big-Eye Face pattern onto the pumpkin. Use a flexible ruler to draw straight lines. Referring to the photo, use a black marker and black and white acrylic paint to make the eyes, nose, and mouth; let dry.

For the yellow pumpkin, tape off the stem and spray-paint pumpkin straw yellow. Trace the Toothy Face pattern onto the pumpkin. Use a flexible ruler to draw straight lines. Referring to the photo, use a black marker and black acrylic paint to make the pupils, nose, and outline of mouth. Using white acrylic paint, add a ring around the pupils and fill in the mouth; let dry. Using black paint, add a ring around each eye and outline the teeth. Tie a natural raffia bow around the stem.

Trace the baseball-stitch pattern, enlarge as needed, and cut out. Place the baseball-stitch pattern on the white pumpkin and trace with a pencil. Paint the stitches with red dimensional paint. Let dry.

For the football pumpkin, tape off the stem using painters tape. Using white artists tape, tape off horizontal stripes toward the top and bottom of the “football.” Spray the entire pumpkin with leather-brown paint. Let dry. Remove the white artists tape, and add a second layer of brown spray paint. Let dry. (The removed tape will leave indentations in the brown paint to guide placement of white tape stripes.) Remove painters tape from the stem. Using white artists tape, create the final stripes that go around the pumpkin toward the top and bottom of the sphere. Create the football laces using two side-by-side strips for the long section and single strips for the stitches.

For the basketball pumpkin, place 1/4-inch-wide black artists tape vertically down the pumpkin’s natural grooves to form basketball “ribs,” creating eight roughly equivalent sections.

## TEAM PLAYERS

### MATERIALS

- 3 pumpkins: 2 large and 1 small
- Painters tape
- Spray paint: white and leather brown
- Baseball-stitch pattern, *right*
- Red dimensional paint
- 1/4-inch-wide white artists tape
- 1/4-inch-wide black artists tape



### INSTRUCTIONS

For the baseball pumpkin, tape off the stem of the small pumpkin using painters tape. Spray the pumpkin white. Let dry.

## GLITZ & GLAM

### MATERIALS

- 3 pumpkins
- Painters tape
- Flat black paint and paintbrush
- Crow stencil
- White pencil
- Golden leafing paint and artists paintbrush
- Feather tattoos

### INSTRUCTIONS

Tape off the pumpkins’ stems using painters tape. Paint the pumpkins black. Let dry.

Place a crow stencil on one pumpkin and trace with a white pencil. (Tape can sometimes remove the paint from the pumpkin, so it’s best to just hold the stencil in place while tracing.) Paint the crow with golden leafing paint, following the manufacturer’s instructions. Let dry.

Decorate the other two pumpkins with a random arrangement of feather tattoos, following the manufacturer’s instructions.





# FRIGHTFUL FLOCKS + INFESTATIONS

If one creature is creepy, then a swarm is positively spine-chilling. Surrender your outdoor decor to hordes of flying, slithering, and crawling invaders.





## TAKE FLIGHT Duck!

The bat colony, *this page*, appears to be winging its way toward approaching trick-or-treaters and into the night sky. Enlarge and trace the bat pattern, *page 53*, in various sizes onto black paper, cut out bats, and tape to your door. Place the biggest bat first and then fill in the others. The door's golden cellophane background gives an eerie sense of moonlight to the flight.





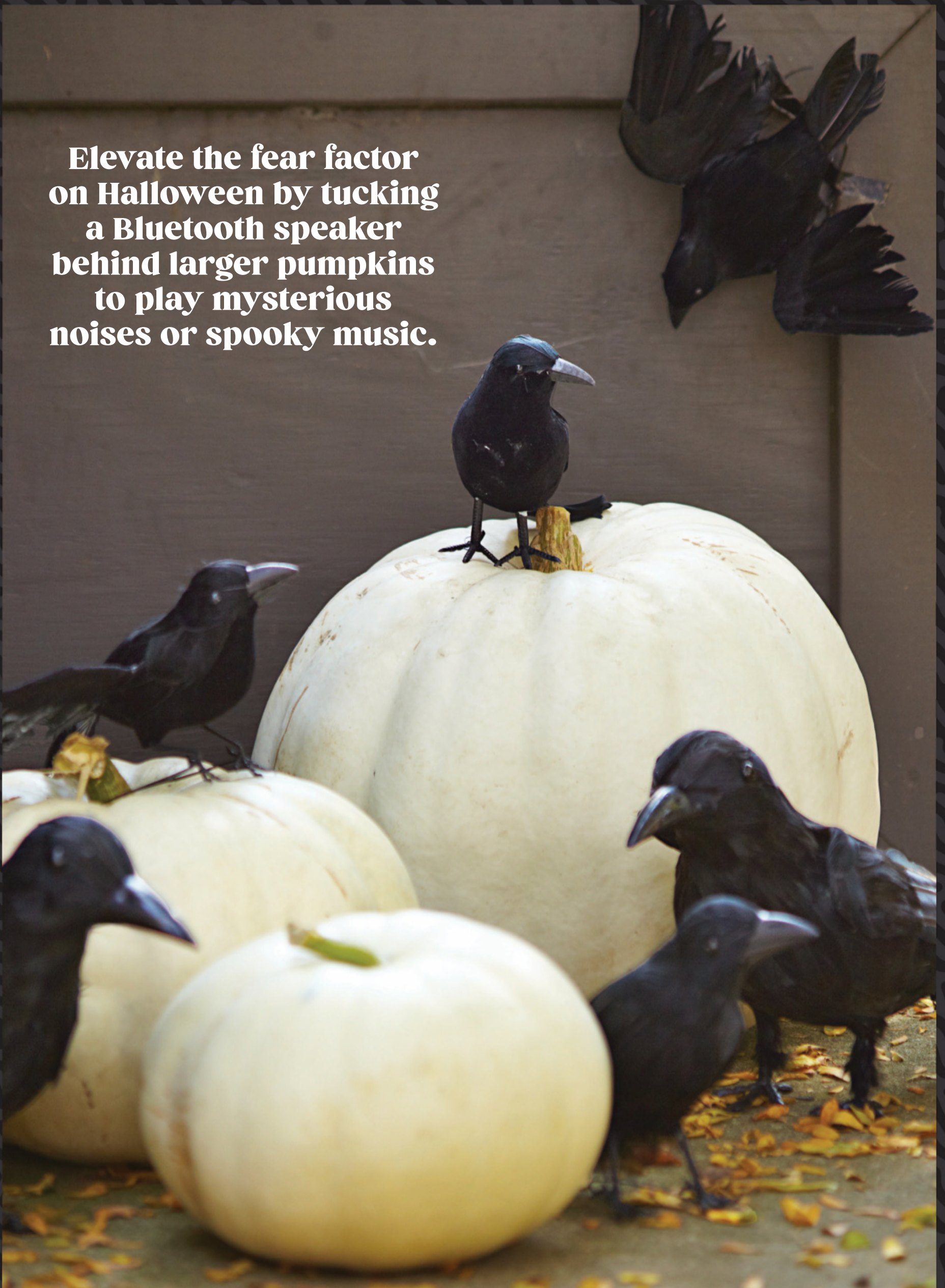


**FOREBODING FLOCKS** Hitchcock knew a thing or two about turning a common bird into something horrific. Do the same with a glut of glossy ravens on fences, gates, and banisters, *this photo*. Buy as many avian figures as your budget allows. Arrange them so some appear at rest while others look ready for an air strike. Secure them with cable ties and black duct tape.





**Elevate the fear factor  
on Halloween by tucking  
a Bluetooth speaker  
behind larger pumpkins  
to play mysterious  
noises or spooky music.**







**LETHAL SPILL** Position a toxic tableau, *this photo*, at the steps, on a walkway, or across a table. Outline a puddle shape on a melamine sheet using white glue. Fill in with more glue. Copy, cut out, and adhere a poison label, *page 53*, to a clear bottle; squirt white glue inside and lay the bottle on its side to dry. Peel off the dried glue puddle. Arrange the puddle and bottle. Use hot glue to attach plastic insects; scatter more near the scene.







**RAT PACK** Think of the horrified responses from passersby when a passel of whiskered pests marches up your front walk, *this photo*. Enlarge our rat patterns, page 53, then transfer to plywood. Cut out the rats, sand edges, and paint them black. Screw vertically aligned U-brackets to the back of each rat. Prop up the rats by slipping each U-bracket over a plant stake pushed in the ground.







**DARK CLOUDS** Ominously animate your yard with colonies of airborne bats, *this photo*. Enlarge and trace our bat patterns, *opposite*, onto black foam-core board and cut out; poke two holes into each bat to attach black cable ties to hold it to a branch. Stick tall limbs into the ground or into sand-filled buckets. Place the largest bats high on the branches and smaller ones toward the bottom, making sure each cable tie is tight.





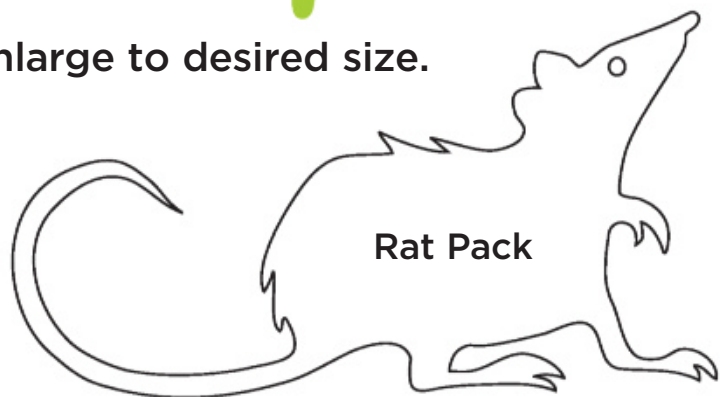
## HISS OF DEATH

Watch your step! A pit's worth of snakes slithers under that mat, *this photo*. Spray-paint rubber snakes black. Cut the snakes in two, creating various lengths. Along the edges of a thick plastic-foam board, arrange the snakes. Fill in the edges in random masses; glue snakes to the edges of the board. Set it beneath a doormat and adjust the sinuous shapes. Sit back and listen for screams.

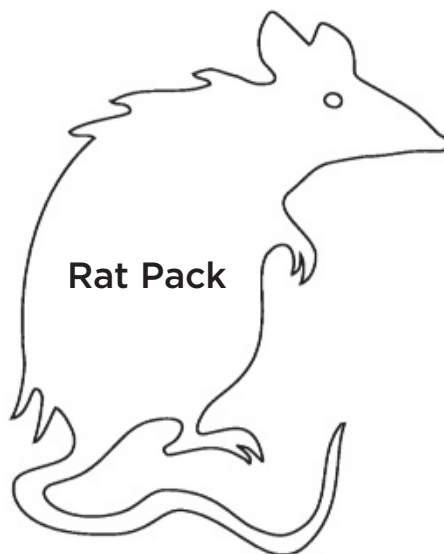


## PATTERNS

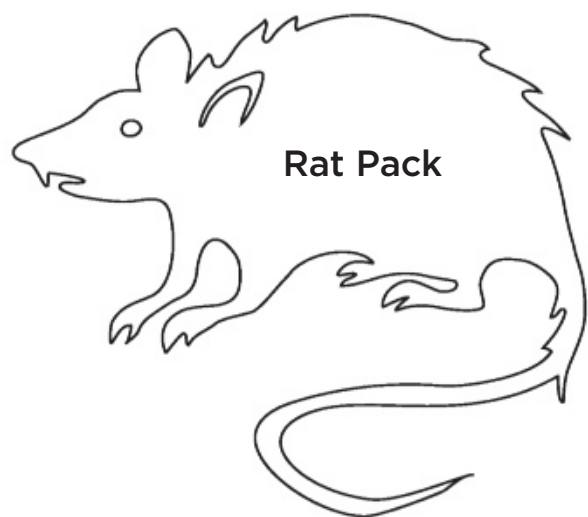
Enlarge to desired size.



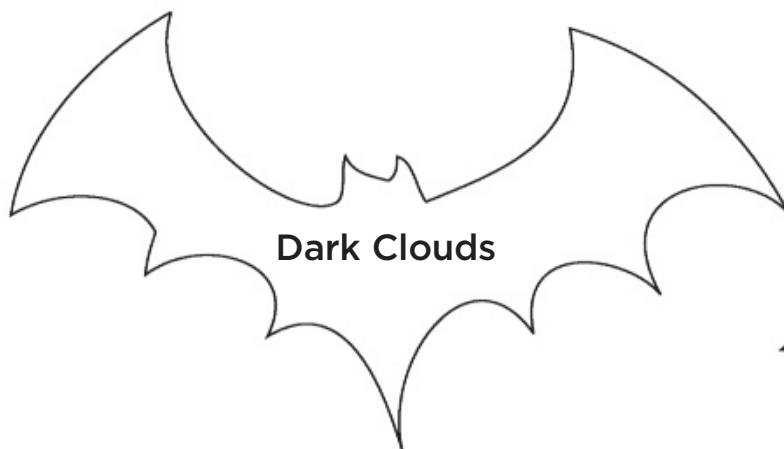
Rat Pack



Rat Pack



Rat Pack



Dark Clouds

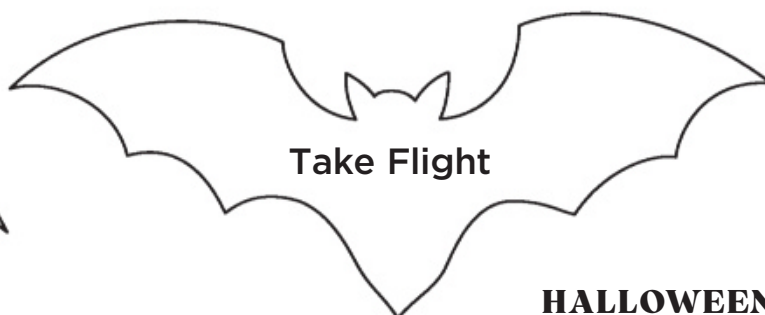


POISON

Lethal Spill



Take Flight



Take Flight



Dark Clouds





These reckless witches could use a little more training! While a bit of a flight risk, they're just right for entertaining the neighbors. Failure to yield to a fence, porch, or light post produces an eerie effect.

**WRITER** BEV RIVERS **PHOTOGRAPHER** JASON DONNELLY  
**PRODUCER** LINDSAY BERGER **SIGN DESIGNER** KRISTIN CLEVELAND





**DO DROP IN** The Witch Flying School class of 2022 may not finish without a few fines, but they'll get an A+ in acrobatic landings, *this photo*. Insert lengths of wood dowels in the center of foam pool noodles. Stuff the noodles into the legs of striped tights and stick them—feet up—in your bushes. Add witchy shoes, pointed in several directions. A cheeky sign to recruit new students offers a witty finishing touch.





## QUICK STOP

Distracted drivers often end up a little off course. If you have a tree in your front yard, this snafu, *left*, could work to your advantage in attracting trick-or-treaters. Tuck swimming pool foam noodles into the arms and legs of the latest witch wear, then fasten the assembly to your tree. Attach a cape, wig, and hat, and finish with a pair of black pumps.

## TOAD AWAY ZONE

These parking attendants, *below*, keep things hopping. We found the rustic brooms in local home centers and a Halloween store. Watch for giant rubber toads in crafts stores or order online. Make your own signs using our free downloadable designs. Or visit any AR Workshop for help with construction.

## SHINGLES BAR

The number one lesson for frequent fliers: Keep your eyes on the landing pad. This ungainly witch, *opposite*, won't cause damage though. She's attached to a round wooden panel from the local home center. By screwing metal flag holders onto the round and inserting flagpole-weight dowels into the holders, you can dress her with no roof distress.



Double, double  
toil and trouble;  
give these witches  
a crash course  
into the world  
of muggles.









# INSTRUCTIONS

## DO DROP IN

### MATERIALS

- 6—5-foot wood dowels
- 6 foam pool noodles
- Black duct tape
- 3 pairs striped tights
- Clear fishing line
- 3 pairs of shoes

### INSTRUCTIONS

Insert a dowel into each pool noodle. Cover ends with tape to keep the dowels in place. Push pool noodles into legs of tights.

Arrange three pairs with legs up in bushes. Use fishing line to secure to greenery, if necessary. Put a shoe on the end of each leg. To keep shoes in place, wrap fishing line around shoes, then around ankles.

## QUICK STOP

### MATERIALS

- 4 foam pool noodles
- Apparel: black long-sleeve T-shirt, black gloves, artificial fingernails, adult-size striped tights, shoes, black cape, witch hat, costume wig
- Polyester fiberfill
- Heavy-duty exterior glue
- T-pins
- Clear fishing line
- 2—5-foot wood dowels
- Bubble wrap
- Broom

### INSTRUCTIONS

Push two pool noodles into the sleeves of a black long-sleeve T-shirt. Stuff gloves with polyester fiberfill to the wrists. Glue fingernails to gloves using exterior glue. Pin glove hands to arm noodles.

Wrap the T-shirt around a tree with the arms pointing forward. Use fishing line to tie wrists together.

Slide a wood dowel into the middle of two foam noodles. Push the pool noodles into each leg of the striped tights. Stretch the tights around the tree beneath the T-shirt and arms, arranging legs as shown on *page 56*. Tie fishing line to legs near the tree trunk to hold them in position. Place shoes on the ends of the legs. Wrap fishing line around shoes and ankles.

Using pins, attach cape to the T-shirt shoulders. Stuff hat with bubble wrap, then pin wig to the inside. Position wig and hat on cape. Secure wig and hat to the tree. Arrange broom as desired.

## SHINGLES BAR

### MATERIALS

- 2 metal flag holders
- 24×1-inch edge-glued wood round
- 48-inch-long flagpole dowel
- 24-inch-long flagpole dowel
- 2 foam pool noodles
- Duct tape
- Apparel: adult-size striped tights, black cape, witch hat, costume wig, shoes
- Small throw pillow
- T-pins
- Bubble wrap
- Clear fishing line
- Broom

### INSTRUCTIONS

Attach metal flag holders side by side to the wood round near an edge. For the straight leg, position 48-inch-long dowel in the left flag holder. (Leg dowels should fit snugly in flag holders.) For the bent leg, place 24-inch dowel in the right holder. Slide a pool noodle onto each dowel. Cover ends with tape.

For the bent leg, just above the dowel, make a small slice about halfway into the noodle covering the 24-inch dowel to allow the leg to bend. Pull tights over noodles.

For the body, attach pillow above flag holders using small nails or staples to attach to the wood round. Nail or staple neckline of the cape above pillow body. Shape cape, and nail or staple it to the wood to hold the shape. Allow it to fall loosely around legs and pin in place.

Stuff witch hat with bubble wrap, then pin wig to the inside. Nail or staple hat to the top edge of the wood round, pulling wig hair over cape shoulders. Bend the right leg at the slice. Put shoes on ends of legs and secure with fishing line wrapped around both the shoes and ankles.

Position assembly on roof. Lay broom beside witch. Note: Place the project where no one will stand or walk on the ground beneath it. In inclement weather, and depending on the pitch of the roof, the witch could reposition and fall.



## SIGN DESIGN

Get even more attention with clever signs. Check out these suggestions.

Visit [BHG.com/CrashCourse](https://www.bhg.com/CrashCourse) to download free printable templates. Enlarge and use to cut your own stencils or, if you prefer, hand-letter the words.

Go to [arworkshop.com](https://www.arworkshop.com) to search for an AR Workshop location near you. At the store, you can buy precut stencils, purchase materials, get help making your signs in the workshop, or have them make the signs for you.



### NOTICE—BROOM PARKING

Paint a 1×8×12-inch piece of pine. Apply white exterior acrylic latex paint to all surfaces; let dry. Stencil design using green exterior paint and words using white and black exterior paint.



### FOR SALE—BROOM

This sign is painted on a 1×10×12-inch piece of pine board to resemble the vinyl signs seen at home centers. Paint the board using white and orange exterior acrylic latex paint. Use white to stencil FOR SALE and black for the remainder of the message. Set the sign on the ground or add a stake to hold it in place.



### WITCH FLYING SCHOOL

Paint two 36-inch stakes using black exterior acrylic latex paint. Cut six 19-inch lengths of 1×4 pine. Butt five pieces together; screw stakes to back to make sign. Paint remaining piece white. Paint large sign gray. Let signs dry. Stencil black letters and border on large sign; stencil orange letters on small sign.



### DON'T TEXT WHILE FLYING

For stakes, cut two 30-inch pieces of 1×2 pine. For the sign, cut seven 36-inch lengths of 1×4 pine. Butt pieces together and screw stakes to back to assemble sign. Edge the assembly with wood trim, if desired. Paint sign black using exterior acrylic latex paint; let dry. Stencil words using yellow paint.





## PUMPKIN PATHWAY

Line the yard and sidewalk with scores of pumpkins and plants in white-painted pots to guide guests inside for Halloween festivities.



A photograph of a house with a large arched window and a dark door. The house is decorated for Halloween with pumpkins and flowers. The text "COME HOME TO CREEPY" is overlaid on the image in a large, white, stylized font.

# COME HOME TO CREEPY

Large, hairy, and always scary, a giant tarantula lures guests to your front door for a delightful night of fright!

**WRITER** BEV RIVERS

**PHOTOGRAPHER** ADAM ALBRIGHT

**PRODUCER** LINDSAY BERGER



## SCARY ON ALL LEVELS

These creative pumpkins are a study in spider art, *this photo*. Arachnids of all sizes take up residence, dangling, draping, and completely covering pumpkins. Permanent markers and plastic spiders make decorating easy.







### LACY LEGWORK

Dozens of spiders join legs to dance up the sides of a small white pumpkin, *left* and *above*. Arrange the creatures in lines, starting around the stem, and keep them in perfect order with a dab of hot glue. Give the small pumpkin top billing by stacking it with another pumpkin on a white urn. Join the two pumpkins with a wooden dowel or metal rod. Black rhinestones provide a thread of ghoulish glitz for a spider that wants to hang out, *below*. Hot glue holds everything in place.





# WEAVE A WEB

OF TERROR FOR A  
WICKEDLY CREATIVE  
HALLOWEEN WELCOME.







## **WORDS OF WARNING**

Nothing says haunted like a gauzy apparition at your front door, *left*. Foam wreaths covered in shredded cheesecloth create the ghostly illusion, while painted letters eek out a warning.

## **UNWELCOME VISITOR**

This foam-ball body covered in faux fur, *opposite*, is certain to scare the daylights out of visitors. With a 10-foot spread, the spider clings to a rope web. Once bitten by the tying technique, you'll be hooked (see instructions on *page 68*).









## GHOSTLY GREETING

Big, bold BOO letters painted white decorate a window banner near a private perch, *opposite*.

## SPIDER INFESTATION

No need to call pest control—these crawlers, *left*, won't bug you. Pile on as many as you want with hot glue or tacky adhesive. Turn a few loose on other letters, too. They're only a few bucks for a bagful!

## TABLETOP TAKEOVER

With black yarn and the same tying technique used for the giant web, make a small version for a table, *below*. Put a spot of hot glue at each intersection, and glue spiders to loose yarn ends.



# REST IN PEACE

IN YOUR OWN LITTLE  
CORNER OF A BOO-TIFUL  
BACK PORCH.





## WORDS OF WARNING WREATHS

### MATERIALS

- Wooden letters
- Orange spray paint
- Cheesecloth
- Foam wreath forms
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Plastic spiders
- Wide white satin ribbon

### INSTRUCTIONS

Spray-paint the wooden letters orange; set aside to dry.

Cut cheesecloth into wide strips and wrap each wreath form. Once you wrap an entire wreath, leave a large piece hanging and shred the ends with scissors.

Using hot glue, attach spiders randomly around the wreaths. Loop one end of ribbon around each wreath for a hanger, and secure with hot glue on the back.

Glue on wooden letters and hang.



## PUMPKIN PATHWAY

### MATERIALS

- Pumpkins
- White spray paint
- Black permanent marker
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Plastic spiders
- Black rhinestones

### INSTRUCTIONS

Purchase pumpkins in various sizes. Choose some with long stems. Thoroughly clean and dry pumpkins.

Spray-paint some pumpkins white. Let the paint dry completely.

Use permanent marker to add webs to some pumpkins. Natural pumpkin indentations provide the perfect pattern for straight lines. Once ink dries, glue spiders in place. For the rhinestone pumpkin (photo, *page 63*), glue black rhinestones in a single web line.

## UNWELCOME VISITOR WEB

### MATERIALS

- Large screw eye or hook
- 100 feet of white rope
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks

### INSTRUCTIONS

If you have a porch with posts and a rail, this rope web is easy to create. If not, just follow the simple tips, *opposite right*, to get the same look.

Find the center between two posts, both along the ceiling line and along the rail. At the top, install a screw eye or hook (often used for hanging flower baskets).

Stretch and tie lengths of rope from center top to center bottom and from the center of the left post to the center of the right post.

For diagonal pieces, tie rope from top left to bottom right, then repeat from bottom left to top right. Loop around the center point (created by the vertical and horizontal intersection) as you pass over it. This will keep the center point firmly tied.

Now weave your web, starting toward the center and evenly spacing octagon bands (rings). Wrap the rope at each intersecting point. Finish each band by applying hot glue to each intersecting point. Cut the rope, tie a knot, and move out to the next band.



## UNWELCOME VISITOR SPIDER

### MATERIALS

- Foam balls: large and medium
- Black faux fur
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Wire
- 8 black jumbo chenille stems (each 36 inches long)
- 2 pieces of black electrical wire

### INSTRUCTIONS

Using black faux fur and hot glue, cover the two foam balls. Join the two by pushing a piece of heavy wire into the top of the large ball and then into the bottom of the medium ball.

Straighten chenille stems and position them on the spider body for legs (four on each side). Secure with hot glue.

Attach electrical-wire antennae to the top of the head. Create two holes with an awl or a nail, then push an antenna into each hole; secure with hot glue.

## GHOSTLY GREETING BANNER

### MATERIALS

- Wooden letters
- White spray paint
- Plastic spiders
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Wide printed ribbon (or plain ribbon and black permanent marker)

### INSTRUCTIONS

Spray-paint the wooden letters white. Let the paint dry thoroughly.

With hot glue, attach spiders to the top of the B, piling some spiders on others. Add random spiders as desired.

Attach the letters to the wide ribbon with hot glue. (If printed ribbon is not available at your crafts supply store, simply purchase solid orange ribbon and draw on spiderwebs with marker.) Hang at the top of a window.

## TABLETOP TAKEOVER WEB

### MATERIALS

- Black yarn
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Plastic spiders

### INSTRUCTIONS

Use black yarn to weave the spiderweb, referring to the Unwelcome Visitor Web instructions, *opposite*. Leave extra length on the foundation strings.

After adding the yarn bands and securing them at intersections with hot glue, add a spider to the end of each foundation string. Spiders will add a bit of weight to the ends to keep the web in place and in form.



## NO PORCH? NO PROBLEM!

Project designer Lindsay Berger created the giant web and spider on a traditional front porch. If your home doesn't have posts and railings, you can get the same look with these easy tips.

Assemble a frame using lengths of 2-inch-wide lumber (actual width 1½ inches). We recommend joining the corners with L brackets and small screws. Then the frame can easily be broken down for storage. Paint the frame in a color that will blend with your home's exterior.

Follow the Unwelcome Visitor Web directions, *opposite*, to weave the web from rope. Working flat on a patio or driveway may prove easiest. Pull the rope taut enough to support the spider but not so tight as to bow the frame.

Locate the best place to display your web, and lean it against or fasten it to your home. Craft a spider, referring to the how-to, *above left*, and glue it to the web.

---

**At the season's end, simply unscrew the corners and put the frame in storage.**

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# Eerie Exteriors

Whether they're walking, biking, or driving by, people will know you're serious when you put some daring—yet so easy and inexpensive to make—outdoor decor on display.

**WRITER** DEBRA STEILEN **PHOTOGRAPHER** JASON DONNELLY **PRODUCER** LESLIE POYZER



**BAT BOA** Craft a sinister garland, *opposite and far right*, for the front door with feather boas adorned with bats. Spray-paint vinyl bat stickers silver and allow to dry. Use wire or black zip ties to tie three 8-foot feather boas together. Use adhesive strip hooks to hang the feather garland around the door. Punch a hole through each bat and attach bats to the boas with wire.

**BE OUR GUEST** Wrap the base of a skeleton wrist, *right*, with epoxy putty and let dry. Drill two holes in the tray to string ribbon for the hanger and drill another hole below the center of the tray. Add E6000 adhesive to the base of the hand and thread a screw through the back of the tray and into the skeleton to secure it tightly. Hot-glue a candle on the hand and drape a linen napkin over the wrist.



**CAPTIVE CANISTERS** Everyone will wonder what creature is hiding on your doorstep. Use air clay to roll out snakelike tentacles. (We used 5 packages to make these.) Insert a chopstick in each shape. Allow to dry completely. Paint with orange and white stripes. Place the tentacles into foam in the urns. Cover with Spanish moss. Collect a variety of glass jars and spray-paint the lids black. Fill each jar inside with a battery-operated votive, batting, and plastic spiders.



**Attach bats to your house at a similar angle for a sense of movement. This colony appears to be swooping.**







## SINISTER SWARM

Massive DIY bats, *below and left*, appear big enough to carry away trick-or-treaters! Make these flying fiends using plastic hangers, black plastic bags, and faux fur.



## COLOSSAL BATS

### MATERIALS (for one bat)

- 6 black plastic hangers
- Wire cutters
- 8 black 3-inch zip ties
- Heavy-duty black trash bag
- Black electrical tape
- 12 inches of  $\frac{3}{4}$ ×36-inch foam pipe insulation
- Black 8-inch zip tie
- 4×12-inch piece of black faux fur
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Exterior self-adhesive strips

### INSTRUCTIONS

Use wire cutters to remove hooks from hangers.

Arrange three hangers into a wing shape (Photo A). Connect with four 3-inch zip ties, as shown. Repeat to make a second wing.

Lay trash bag flat. Place a wing frame on the trash bag. Cut plastic about an inch outside frame. Fold over frame and secure plastic on the back with black electrical tape (Photo B). Flip the second wing frame (to make a left and right wing). Cover second wing frame.

Arrange the wings side by side with taped sides down. For the bat body, place a 12-inch-long piece of foam pipe insulation (Photo C) along the center of the wings. To indicate the head, extend the foam piece 2–3 inches from the top of the connected wings.

To connect the wings to the body, poke the ends of an 8-inch zip tie through the plastic—one end on each side of the foam insulation body—and fasten on the underside. Place the zip tie so it wraps around the hangers in the space just below where the two inner hangers' hooks were removed.

Hot-glue faux fur (Photo D) to prepared bat body.

Attach bat to house. Use exterior self-adhesive strips for easy removal.











**Supersize decorations naturally draw attention. Group smaller decor elements and include contrasting color to create big impact.**

## NOCTURNAL LIFE

Frightening first impressions matter! Fortunately, affordable artificial plants from the thrift store make it easy to create a forlorn landscape, *above* and *opposite*. Get spiky, feathery, and sculptural plastic or silk plants at budget prices. Spray plants, planters, and stones with matte black paint. Arrange foliage in the planters, pouring sand around the stems to hold in place. Cover sand with black Spanish moss or stones to enhance the illusion of decaying plant life. White pumpkins—painted or real—add bone-chilling contrast.

## NIGHT CRAWLERS

Copper creepy-crawlies shimmering amid a gloomy garden, *above* and *opposite*, are sure to send shivers up every visitor's spine. Grab cheap plastic or rubber spiders, centipedes, bugs, rodents, and snakes at a dollar store or order a menagerie online. Spray the wriggly critters with metallic copper paint. When dry, position the creatures to make the biggest visual impact amid the black-painted plants. Secure them with hot glue, if needed. On moonlit nights, the coppery invaders add a startling glimmer to the disturbing shadows of the flora and fauna.







## GHOSTLY LUMINARIES

Add a little doom and gloom to a vibrant pumpkin display by transforming upcycled glass shades, *below left*, into goofy or ghastly ghosts. Find a mix of shades at thrift stores. Draw or print out facial features on the back of black sticker paper, then cut out the shapes. Remove backing paper and position the sticker features on the shades before placing the apparitions on top of pumpkins or on the steps. Boost the boo factor by hiding remote-control puck lights beneath each shade; you control the timing for creating frightful flickers.



## TERRIFYING TAPERS

No matches needed! These tall tapers offer fireproof flicker. Cut foam pipe insulation tubes to 24- to 30-inch lengths. Arrange in a circle with the tallest in back, *left*; tie together with twine. Place the grouping in an urn, then pour in sand to keep tubes in place. Position a battery-power LED tea light atop each tube. Metallic copper tea lights add color to the mournful display. Cover the sand with black Spanish moss.

## WATCH PARTY

Give passersby a close look by setting out scary pairs of oversize eyeballs, *right*. Making them is as easy as reading an eye chart! The 6-inch-diameter googly eyes (ours came from Dollar Tree) and other supplies are a bargain. Blow up 12-inch-diameter white beach balls, then wind florists wire around each ball's air valve for fastening the finished eyes to bushes or trees. Point the air valve down, and hot-glue a googly eye to each inflated ball. When the glue is completely dry, place pairs of finished eyeballs in desired spots and wire to greenery.





# KNOCK KNOCK



## EYE CANDY

Tempt your sweet tooth with a colorful wreath, *this photo*, that celebrates a Halloween classic. Try to resist taking a bite though! These candy corns are made from painted foam cones.

Who's there?  
Scary cool wreaths  
that are suspiciously  
easy to make.

**PHOTOGRAPHERS** ADAM ALBRIGHT,  
JACOB FOX, JAY WILDE, AND KRITSADA  
**ILLUSTRATOR** OLGA KURBATOVA



## ATTENTION GRABBER

A coat of metallic paint gives plastic skeleton hands, *this photo*, some spunk. They have a good grasp on doling out Halloween greetings when mounted to a chalkboard base.







### **CREEPY-CRAWLY YARN**

Coax visitors closer with a fuzzy wreath that conceals a colony of spiders, *this photo*. Weave the web on a medium-density fiberboard (MDF) form, then create the arachnids and their colorful habitat using yarn-wrapped balls.



### CULT CLASSIC

Part frightful, part formal, this skull-adorned circle gets its stripes from overlapping strips of felt, *this photo*. Add a downloadable cardstock cranium and a floppy bow to creep out callers.





## CREEPY CAULDRON

Stir up a witch's brew of corneas and chives, *this photo*. Season with a spillover of unbreakable ornaments in bright colors. Around the top, cut the foam-core backing a bit larger than the pot for extra room to hot-glue the ingredients. Any wicked chef would be proud of this hearty concoction.







### **MADE IN A PINCH**

Painted and arranged in traditional candy corn colors, these classic clothespins make a quick and easy wreath, *this photo*. No worries if wooden clothespins aren't in your laundry room supply stash these days—they're readily available at crafts stores.



**Wreaths aren't just for the front door. Adorn a mailbox post, porch railing, or gate with a wickedly wonderful wreath.**

### **PEEKABOO MUMMY**

What goes around comes around, and in this case it's an introverted mummy made from a plain straw wreath form wrapped in cheesecloth, *this photo*. Add two googly eyes on top of a black duct tape backdrop to give this shy creature a sneaky way to spy on trembling trick-or-treaters.







### BOO-TIFUL GREETING

Invite Halloween visitors to come knocking with a cheerfully spooky greeting, *this photo*. Fashionable oversize letters and an assortment of sparkling ball ornaments are about all it takes to assemble this graphic door decoration.



# INSTRUCTIONS

## EYE CANDY

### MATERIALS

- Serrated knife
- Wax block, old candle, or bar of soap
- 9—27/8x57/8-inch foam cones (we used Styrofoam)
- Spackling knife
- Lightweight spackling compound (we used Smooth Finish)
- Sandpaper, medium- and fine-grit finish
- Crafts paint: orange, white, yellow
- Cardboard
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Decorative ribbon

### INSTRUCTIONS

Run a serrated knife across a block of wax, old candle, or bar of soap. Use knife to cut each foam cone in half from top to bottom to make 18 halves.

Use a spackling knife to cover the curved front of each half cone with lightweight spackling compound, and smooth the finish as much as possible. Let dry. Sand each half cone with medium-grit sandpaper, then sand with fine-grit sandpaper for a smooth finish. Gently wipe away loose dust.

Paint each cone white; let dry. Paint the bottom third of each cone yellow; let dry. Paint the middle portion orange, leaving a white tip; let dry.

Arrange the cones in a circle to form a wreath shape. Cut a ring from sturdy cardboard that is the size of your circle and approximately 3–4 inches wide. Rearrange the cones onto the cardboard ring; secure each cone to the cardboard using hot glue.

Make a bow from decorative ribbon, and glue it to the front of the wreath as desired.

## ATTENTION GRABBER

### MATERIALS

- 9 plastic skeleton hands
- Metallic silver spray paint
- 9-inch-diameter chalkboard circle
- Happy Halloween pattern, *below*
- White transfer paper
- Chalkboard marker
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks

### INSTRUCTIONS

Spray the skeleton hands with several coats of metallic silver spray paint; let dry between coats.

Enlarge the Happy Halloween pattern, *below*; cut out.

Trace the pattern onto white transfer paper, and transfer it to the center of the chalkboard. Draw over the design with a chalkboard marker.

Referring to photo, *page 79*, use hot glue liberally to adhere the hands to the chalkboard in a wreath shape.



## CREEPY-CRAWLY YARN

DESIGNED BY MELANIE JANSSEN-SULLY

### MATERIALS

- 40–50 plastic-foam balls: 1 inch, 1½ inches, and 2 inches in diameter
- Novelty yarn: fuzzy black
- Yarn: black, green, purple, and orange
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- 12-inch medium-density fiberboard (MDF) wreath form
- 7—12-inch-long black chenille stems
- 2—7-millimeter googly eyes
- 6—5-millimeter googly eyes

### INSTRUCTIONS

Gather one large, two medium, and two small foam balls for spiders. Use hot glue to secure a yarn end to each ball, then wrap and cover the ball with fuzzy black yarn. Secure the other end using hot glue.

Wrap the remaining various-size foam balls with black, green, purple, or orange yarn. Cover approximately the same number of foam balls with each color. Set all yarn-covered foam balls aside.

Tie four lengths of black yarn evenly to the wreath form, crossing in the center to form eight spokes. Tie a long length of black yarn to the center of the spokes; weave the yarn around each spoke to form the spiraling web. Tie the end of the yarn to the wreath form.



Hot-glue the yarn-covered balls to the wreath form, mixing colors and sizes. Use small balls to fill in areas where the form shows through. Arrange the fuzzy black yarn-ball spider bodies around the wreath.

Cut chenille stems into eight 3-inch pieces

for the large spider, sixteen 2-inch pieces for the medium spiders, and sixteen 1½-inch pieces for the small spiders. Insert the legs into the appropriate yarn-wrapped balls. Bend each stem to form a leg and foot. Hot-glue the legs to the yarn balls. Hot-glue a pair of googly eyes to each spider.

## CULT CLASSIC

DESIGNED BY MELISSA CLARK

### MATERIALS

- 14-inch straw wreath form
- Felt: white and black
- Straight pins
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Upholstery fabric (we used lime green)
- Skull image, from *BHG.com/HTTSkull*
- White cardstock
- Decoupage medium (we used Mod Podge)
- Three bamboo skewers
- Crafts knife
- Black ribbon or baker's twine

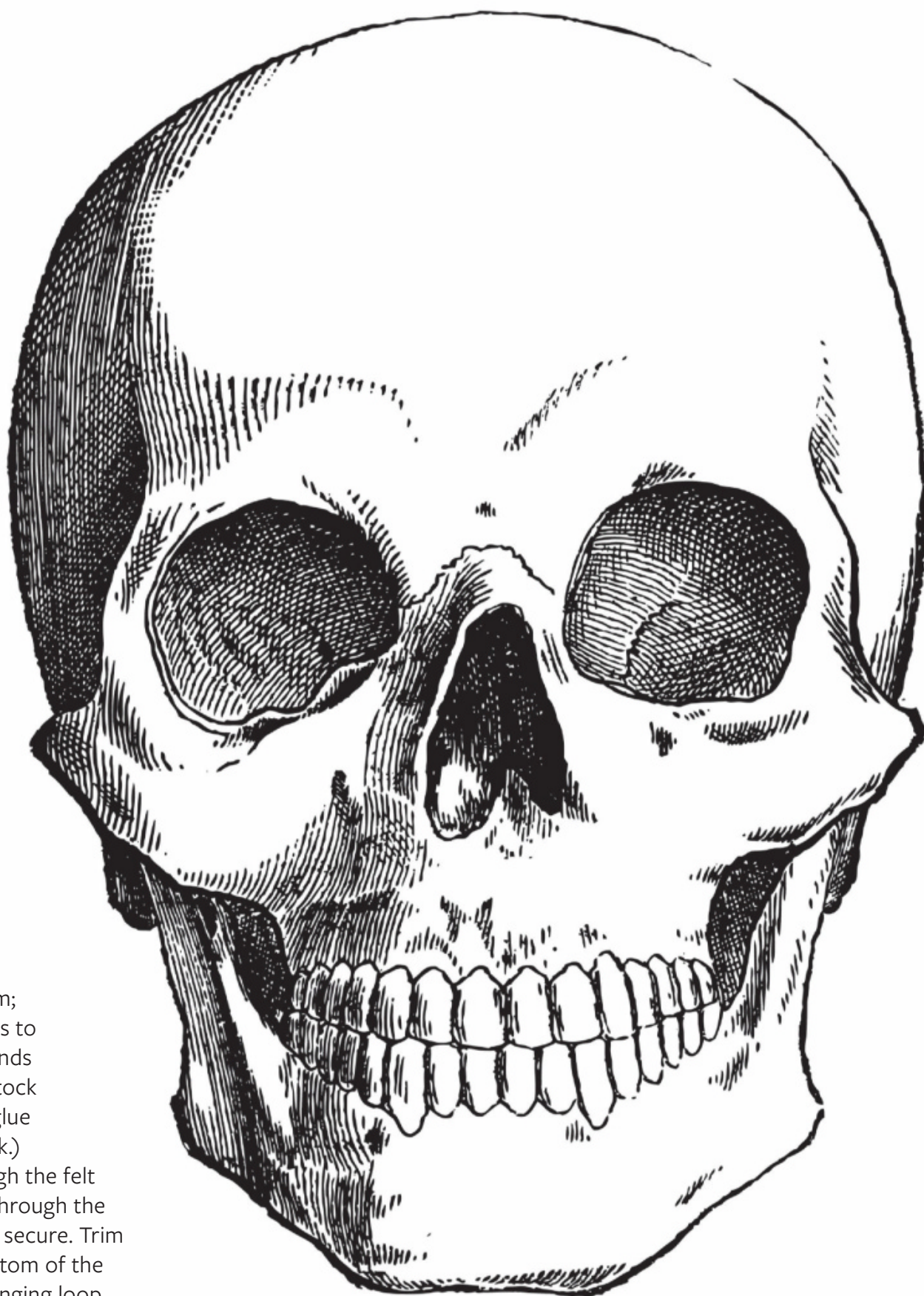
### INSTRUCTIONS

Cut enough 10x½-inch felt strips to cover the wreath form—about 50 each of black and white felt. Overlapping the edges slightly, wrap alternating colors of felt strips around the form. Secure each strip on the back of the form using straight pins. Cut off excess felt. (For a finished look, cover the pinned ends on the back of the wreath with additional strips of black felt attached using hot glue.)

Cut a 7x60-inch strip of upholstery fabric and tie it in a floppy bow. Attach the bow to the bottom of the wreath using straight pins. Trim off excess fabric, notching the bow tails if desired. Let the cut edges fray for a spooky effect.

Copy the skull image, *right*, on cardstock. Coat the printed side with decoupage medium; let dry. Cut out the skull. Hot-glue the skewers to the back of the cardstock skull; the pointed ends should extend 2–2½ inches beyond the cardstock at the base of the skull. (For a finished look, glue a cardstock oval over the skewers on the back.)

Use a crafts knife to cut three holes through the felt strips just above the bow. Poke the skewers through the holes and into the wreath form, pushing until secure. Trim the skewer ends if they poke through the bottom of the form. Use black ribbon or twine to make a hanging loop.





# INSTRUCTIONS

## CREEPY CAULDRON

### MATERIALS

- 16-inch plastic cauldron
- Spray foam insulation or expanding floral foam spray
- Reciprocating saw
- Black foam-core board
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Utility knife and awl
- Heavy-duty fishing line
- Shatterproof ball ornaments: various sizes and colors
- Plastic eyeballs
- Faux chives or grasses

### INSTRUCTIONS

On a covered surface in a well-ventilated area, fill cauldron two-thirds full with spray foam. Follow all manufacturer's directions and cautions. Avoid getting foam on skin, hair, and clothes or in eyes. The foam will double in size, so allow room for expansion. Let set for 48 hours.

Using a reciprocating saw, cut the cauldron in half. If appropriate, follow the plastic seam line. Cut completely through the cauldron and foam. Set one half aside and use for another project.

Spread hot glue on the back of the cauldron half to adhere it to black foam-core board; press firmly. Let glue set.

Using a utility knife, cut away excess foam-core board, leaving 2 to 3 inches of foam-core board on the top and upper part of sides. Use an awl or sharp point to punch a hole in upper corners of foam-core board. Thread fishing line through the holes and tie it off for a hanger.

Starting with the largest ornaments, hot-glue assorted colors randomly inside the cauldron. Build up the bubbling effect using ball ornaments of different sizes and colors. Continue gluing on ornaments, creating a spilling effect over the front and sides. Refer to the photo for inspiration. Cover the exposed backing with ornaments and trim away excess.

Randomly hot-glue plastic eyeballs into the ornament mix. Tuck in faux chives or grasses to finish.

## MADE IN A PINCH

### MATERIALS

- 45 hinged wooden clothespins
- Spray paint: orange, yellow, white
- Cardboard
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Clear polyurethane spray paint
- Black ribbon

### INSTRUCTIONS

Paint 15 clothespins orange, 15 yellow, and 15 white. Clip 15 clothespins to a scrap piece of cardboard, leaving space in between each pin so paint will cover the clothespin edges. Apply spray paint to one side; let dry. Turn the cardboard over to paint the other side. Repeat as necessary.

Cut a 12-inch-diameter circle from a piece of sturdy cardboard. Cut a smaller circle out of the middle to create a 1/2-inch-wide ring. Clip the clothespins onto the cardboard ring, following the color pattern shown.

To secure each clothespin to the wreath form, pinch one clothespin open at a time and put a drop of hot glue on the cardboard. Spray the finished wreath with two coats of polyurethane; let dry between coats.

Cut a piece of ribbon to the length you want, loop it through the wreath, and hot-glue the ends together. Tie a bow from another piece of ribbon, and glue it over the seam of the hanging ribbon.

## BOO-TIFUL GREETING

### MATERIALS

- 9 1/2-inch medium-density fiberboard (MDF) letters, "B" and "O"
- Black crafts paint
- 8-inch plastic-foam wreath
- Shatterproof ball ornaments in black, orange, green (we used approximately 60—1 1/2-inch and 20—1-inch balls)
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Halloween decoration (optional)
- Black tinsel garland
- Repositionable adhesive strips

### INSTRUCTIONS

Paint the MDF letters black; let dry completely.

Remove the caps from the ornament balls. Arrange the balls around the outer and inner edges of the wreath to estimate placement; glue each ball to the wreath using hot glue liberally. Continue to glue more balls across the front of the wreath until you achieve the look you want. You can add other Halloween decorations, such as a skeleton face, if desired. Let glue dry completely.

Wrap black tinsel garland around the wreath, tucking it in between balls to secure.

To hang, use repositionable adhesive strips.

## PEEKABOO MUMMY

### MATERIALS

- 2 yards cheesecloth or muslin
- 12-inch straw wreath form
- Black duct tape
- 2—10-millimeter googly eyes
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks

### INSTRUCTIONS

Cut cheesecloth or muslin into strips. Wrap fabric strips around wreath form to completely cover, leaving about an inch of the form exposed.

Cut a triangular strip of duct tape. Place tape on uncovered part of wreath form. Glue googly eyes to tape. Pull or wrap fabric strips to touch both edges of tape. Dab hot glue on strips to secure.



# ONE PORCH

# Three WAYS

Lure guests and treat-seeking goblins with a charmingly wicked welcome before they even reach the front door.

**WRITER** PAMELA PORTER

**PHOTOGRAPHER** ADAM ALBRIGHT

**PRODUCER** LINDSAY BERGER





1

## Got a Sweet Tooth?

Symmetry, sheen, and color give this candy corn-inspired scene a modern, playful vibe that appeals to kids of all ages. With vivid hues repeated throughout, the tricolor palette suggests a handful of yum is most certainly just a knock away.

### TEMPTING TOPIARY

A candy corn stack is no trick. Remove stems, then drill holes in the bottom and top of two faux pumpkins and the bottom of a third. Paint each, then slide them onto a dowel set in floral foam.

### GET YOUR SHINE ON

Gloss up matte or satin paint by spraying clear polyurethane over dry paint.





# Get the Look



## SPIN A YARN

Consider thick synthetic-blend yarns, which cost less than natural-fiber yarns and tend to better withstand outdoor elements.



## MAKING ROUNDS

Foam wreath forms are durable and come in a variety of sizes. We used 20-inch tubular forms, but you could use flat forms as well.



## PAPER TRAIL

Medium-weight and pleasingly pliable for banners and other projects, canvas paper is available at crafts and art stores.



## A COVER-UP

Before painting crafts pumpkins to match your color scheme, mask stems and paint pumpkins with prime.



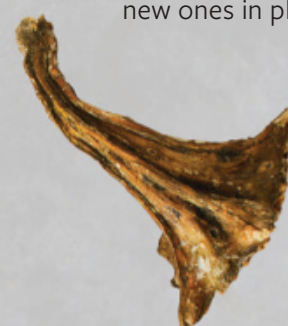
## EYE-POPPING

Go bold with head-turning hues your visitors can't help but notice. Fabulous fluorescent colors come in convenient spray cans.



## TOP IT OFF

Make crafts pumpkins look authentic by replacing imitation stems with real ones. Buy stems online, cut off the fake ones, and hot-glue the new ones in place.



## IT'S A WRAP

### MATERIALS

- Permanent marker
- 3 tubular foam wreath forms
- Yarn: white, yellow, orange
- Small plastic rings
- Canvas paper
- Printable trick-or-treat message (go to [BHG.com/HalloweenPorches](http://BHG.com/HalloweenPorches))
- Straight pins

### INSTRUCTIONS

Measure and mark eight equal sections on each wreath form. Knot white yarn at back. Wrap yarn to cover first section. Tie on yellow yarn; wrap next section. Repeat with orange. Alternate colors until form is covered. Tie a plastic ring to back for hanging. Repeat with remaining forms.

Cut banner shapes from canvas paper to fit inside each wreath. Print trick-or-treat message. Trace or handwrite words on each banner using permanent marker. Press pins through banner into wreath foam to attach.



2

## Something to Crow About

You don't need a bird's-eye view to appreciate this eerie entrance. Blackbirds and a classic monochromatic scheme mean mystery abounds. When hung from fishing line, crows are free to move in the wind, offering visitors the illusion of birds on the attack.

### ON THE SURFACE

Flexible contact paper easily adheres to surfaces with ridges, such as this paneled door.





# Get the Look



## FLOCK TOGETHER

Purchase decorative crows from multiple sources; you'll find various profiles and sizes, resulting in a more realistic-looking flock.

## MOTHS TO A FLAME

For hands-off convenience, set battery-operated candles with remote controls inside black lanterns.



**BEFORE APPLYING, CHECK ON THE DOOR'S EDGE OR ANOTHER UNOBTRUSIVE SPOT TO MAKE SURE PAINT DOESN'T PEEL OFF WHEN YOU REMOVE THE CONTACT PAPER.**

## STICKY BUSINESS

Choose contact paper with the color and pattern you desire. Ours is a faux marble style, but wood grain or solid black would make a striking silhouette.



## MAKE YOUR MOVE

Accent pillows are versatile enough to boost indoor decor or play a supporting role in the Halloween scene outdoors.

## OPPOSITES ATTRACT

After painting crafts pumpkins contrasting hues, dust with glitter or add a metallic touch to a stem.



## BRANCHING OUT

### MATERIALS

- Printable tree pattern (go to [BHG.com/HalloweenPorches](http://BHG.com/HalloweenPorches))
- Contact paper
- Decorative crows
- Removable adhesive hooks

### INSTRUCTIONS

Print tree pattern on white paper. Enlarge at a copy shop to desired size; cut out.

Trace tree template on contact paper. If template is wider than

contact paper, piece together as needed. Cut out tree.

Starting at the bottom, remove a small portion of backing from tree and press adhesive side to bottom of door, burnishing with fingers to remove air bubbles. Moving up slowly, remove backing in small sections; press tree in place.

Attach crows to door using removable adhesive hooks.





3

## Mystical Night Sky

The enchanting glow of a captivating crescent moon lures passersby to this doorstep. In the duotone scheme, the vivid yellow moon, mums, and pillow offer bright contrast to the black cats and filmy drape.

### FRIGHT IN A FLASH

Draped and dreadful, black crafts gauze adds a shivery touch to an entry in two seconds flat.

### THE CAT'S MEOW

Make these silhouettes using our printable pattern, medium-density fiberboard, spray paint, and wood glue.

**DOWNLOAD** PATTERNS & INSTRUCTIONS  
FOR THE PROJECTS IN THIS STORY AT [BHG.COM/HALLOWEENPORCHES](http://bhg.com/halloweenporches)



# Get the Look

## WHITE AS A GHOST

Low-cost, nonadhesive shelf liner adds depth and durability to crafts such as these stars. Cut freehand versions and attach them using double-stick tape.

## SHEER HORROR

For a cascading weblike effect, strategically pull and tear black gauze to enhance its ominous, aged look.

## WIRED UP

Inexpensive wire hoops from the floral area of a crafts store make this project affordable.

## STICK TO IT

The stretch and durability of vinyl electrical or insulating tape from a hardware store promises results that will last.

## CAST A SHADOW

Satin-finish black spray paint gives these cat silhouettes mysterious shadowlike appeal.

## HAUNTED HUE

A permanent fixture on the porch year-round, this vibrant pillow inspired the seasonal color scheme.



## OVER THE MOON

### MATERIALS

- 2 wire hoops in different sizes
- Yellow electrical tape
- Removable adhesive hook

### INSTRUCTIONS

Wrap each wire hoop individually with electrical tape.

Fit the small hoop inside the larger one, offsetting so hoops almost touch on one side.

Referring to the photo, *left*, use electrical tape to wrap hoops

together, beginning along the edge where the two hoops almost touch and continuing around the perimeter where the offset gets larger.

Continue until the crescent shape is finished, leaving a section with only the original tape wrapping. Wrap around the hoops again, crisscrossing the previous wraps. Attach to door using removable adhesive hook.



**There is magic in  
the night when the  
pumpkins glow  
by moonlight.**

## **BAD MOON RISING**

Ghosts float in front of an eerie moon made from a giant globe lantern illuminated with an outdoor pendant light kit. To make the ghosts, cut black contact paper faces and attach them to 12-inch lanterns. Cheesecloth with spray-painted edges drapes over the lanterns.

PHOTOGRAPHER: JACOB FOX PRODUCER: LINDSAY BERGER

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# Projects for a greener home.

Simple swaps can make a big difference in the impact we have on the planet. Stitch up sustainable alternatives to disposable items and reduce waste around your home. Make your lunchtime routine more green by sewing reusable snack bags and sandwich wraps.

Find the FREE patterns and how-to video here:  
**[AllPeopleQuilt.com/sewgreen](http://AllPeopleQuilt.com/sewgreen)**



**FABRIC** is from the Sweet Picnic collection by Natàlia Juan Abelló for Riley Blake Designs

*unfolds to create  
an eating surface!*

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# HOMEMADE

*starts with a home.*

Whether you're searching for a house to begin your story or selling one to write the next chapter, every new beginning starts with a home.

Let our affiliated agents help you find your next beginning.



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